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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

Appomattox, Virginia

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BIBLE VERSE TO STUDY

"Sir, what must I do to be saved? —Acts 16:30, 31

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GENERAL BILLY MITCHELL

The Air Force Association announced a campaign which is designed to result in the posthumus award of the rank of General of the Air Force to William (Billy) Mitchell. The Air Force Association is an organization of thousands of Air Force veterans and service men.

We believe the posthumus award of generalship, and possibly the expunging from the record of his courtmartial conviction, would be in order. One should keep in mind that the military services, lke any other great organization, often guard their rights and duties jealously.

It will also be remembered that even as late as after World War II, the Army and Navy jealously eyed the new service proposed—the Air Force. In addition to the service rivalries which have diminished, there is a rivalry between sea, land and air, which often prevails within each military service.

General Mitchell aroused the animosity of old Navy men and some of his own Army asociates, since he was one of a small nucleus espousing the cause of air power. In the end, it turned out that Mitchell had more vision and foresight than most of his contemporaries and it is high time this fact was officially recognized.

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AN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT EXPERIMENT

The Agriculture Department has hired a private industry sales manager to begin a program of disposing of larger quantities of U. S. surplus goods overseas. The outcome of this program, which is an experimental one, may be of vital importance to farmers, and farm prices, and therefore to all Americans.

The Agriculture Department's decision to go into the world market and compete to dispose of U. S. surpluses has brought worried communiques from various foreign embassies in Washington. The State Department, reflecting this concern, is asking that the Agriculture Department not unload such great quantities of U. S. surplus goods so as to cause breaks in world prices.

The Department of Agriculture is willing to sell U. S. surplus goods in exchange for local currency. One of the theories behind this program is that the sale of U. S. surplus products, for local currency, can become a method of converting farms in many areas of the world from cotton, or wheat, or whatever surplus the United States sells to more profitable local products, such as meats or dairy products.

The Department of Agriculture's new effort to sell goods abroad is headed by Dr. Frank C. Daniels, an expert in the overseas sale of agricultural products, and the new service is called the Commodities Stabilization Service. A staff of trained salesmen will operate under the supervision of Daniels.

The surplus goods problem in this country has become a severe one, and it is well known that the United States has huge stocks of wheat, cotton and other products, which it would like to dispose of.

The State Department believes that, in the last fiscal year, which ended June 30th, world markets absorbed about as much surplus U. S. products as was possible. The Department of Agriculture is operating on a slightly different theory — that overseas markets can consume more than they did in the last fiscal year.

It is estimated that the United States now has $8,500,000,000 worth of farm surplus products, and included are 1,200,000,000 bushels of wheat and at least 8,000,000 bales of cotton.

The cost of storing these commodities is considerable and it is obvious that every American has a real stake in the new Agriculture Department program. Whether the Commodity Stabilization Service meets with success in its efforts will be a question most citizens will closely watch.

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The test of a writer is whether he is honest; anyone who has the answer to every local, state and national problem, is oversimplifying the problems and overestimating his mentality.

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Next to attending church, attending school is the most important thing a youngster can do, even though money is to be made at school age. Figures show that the greater the number of years in school, the greater chances are for high incomes.

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THE NAVY AND ATOMIC SUBMARINES

Although the Navy has been working on the production and operation of atomic-powered submarines for many years, it is evident that the desired fleet-type atomic submarines has not yet been produced.

A contract was announced recently by the Navy for the "development of a nuclear-powered small submarine," Although the word small was not explained, it may be assumed that the Navy has in mind a submarine of something near the normal dispalcement of about 1,700 tons. The latest Navy contract calls for a reactor suitable for a small submarine, and not for the submarine, itself.

Therefore, it will probably be some years before the reactor is built and, certainly, some years before the Navy has its first standard-size atomic-powered submarine. Congress has already authorized the Navy to build eight atom-powered subs and one is operating, one was recently launched, and another is building. There is speculation that the fourth might be reduced in size if the new power plant is ready by that time.

All of which proves that development in this field is slow, it now being ten years after World War II, with the Navy possessing only one operational atomic-powered submarine. Should a new war break out soon, conventional submarines would still bear the brunt of sub work.

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THE RETURN OF SCHOOL DAYS

The nation's schools are now opening their doors for the 1955-56 school year. The total enrollment for the year is expected to exceed 37,000,000 pupils.

While this represents an increased enrollment over the 1954-55 school year, the biggest increases are yet to come. It is estimated that, by 1965—ten years hence— school enrollment will be approaching 50,000,000 pupils.

Since several years is required to plan and build structures for school use and to organize new faculties, most communities have little time left to lay plans for huge increases in the school population expected to be felt three years from now.

A recent study group estimated it would cost the nation some $2,000,000,000 a year for the next ten years to maintain adequate schools for the increasing enrollment. This includes money to be spent on both public and private schools.

The education of the nation's youth is becoming increasingly recognized as the best investment the taxpayer can make. It seems almost certain that the Federal Government will seek to make some contribution to school construction when the Eighty Fourth Congress meets, in January. Because money appropriated in the second session will probably not be available until the summer of 1956, many communities will just barely have time to construct facilities for the boom years, expected to start in 1958, if there is a Federal aid program.

Appomattox County is extremely fortunate in having had the foresight to provide adequate facilities for its school program, and no great building problem is to be anticipated here. However, there are localities in Virginia where the probelm is going to be felt.

And we are by no means certain that Virginia lawmakers will look with favor upon Federal aid (and control) of education.

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MANN ON CULTURAL PROGRESS

Thomas Mann, German-born author who lived in the United States for fifteen years and then moved to Switzerland in 1953, is dead at eighty. Mann, who won the Nobel prize for Literature in 1929, recently made a few comments on the progress of the world.

Mann's remarks actually came in a pre-birthday interview, in which he noted that the two World Wars in 1914-18 and the 1939-45 war, had destroyed many valuable traditions and had "catastrophic consequences" for many peopels.

He believes that the two wars did much to retard cultural achievement, but he did not blame them for what he calls cultural and moral retrogression the world has been experiencing in recent decades. The elderly writer said it would be a tragic mistake for us to conclude that technological and scientific progress being made today compensates for the losses we have sustained in the field of culture and tradition.

We often disagree with those who claim that the younger generation is going to the dogs, but we find ourselves in agreement with the words of the German-born author. We sometimes wonder what has happened to the the traditions and chivalry which survived for hundreds of years until this century.

In the modern rush for the dollar, we in the United States have often under-valued tradition, custom and moral fortitude, and over-valued technological and scientific progress and material gain.

This, we believe, is part of what Mann had in mind and may be partly responsible for his opinion that the world suffered "shocking cultural and moral retrogression," in recent decades.

It is something for us to think about in the United States. While we cherish the reputation of being a melting pot of peoples, and the leader of the world in industry and technological advancements, we also must preserve a culture, and a heritage, and a tradition—as a nation. These values outlast all the material gain, and technological progress we are now making.

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Jess Anderson is thinking of taking out his telephone and planting grapevines. Jess says his wife can hear twice as much over the grapevine as she can over the telephone. —New Harmony Times.

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If you must borrow, do it from a pessimist. He doesn't expect to get the money back, anyway. —Answers, London.

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Not knowing the answer is only half as hard as admitting not knowing it.

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After millions have been invested in North African airfields, officials now say the U. S. bases are insecure. The jobs of those responsible for the current mess should be also.

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Isn't it funny how loud voices dominate a conversation, regardless of the intelligence exhibited?

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The chance for peace is worth looking into, despite the razzing from the bleachers by the politicians seeking to exploits people's hatreds.

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There is an art in saying no, that makes all the difference to the person hearing it.

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People who like to avoid petty incidents and involvements would do well to avoid petty people.

Richard D. Robinson
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News Report From Washington

Cold War Eases—

Ike Gets Credit—

China Reluctant Dragon?—

Spreading Out Boom—

Washington, D. C.- There has been a great easing of the cold war in Europe and Russia since the Geneva Conference. Some of the signs have not been generally and accurately reported to the American people.

For one thing, ever since Geneva the Soviet press and radio has refrained from banding the United States as a warmonger and has stopped the rough talk that let up only for a few months then resumed, about this country's policy designs.

In recent months the statements of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles have been printed in full in Russia and there has been a very obvious attempt to stop the hostile and bitter attacks made on this country, as a plotter of future war.

Responding to this change in tune, the Voice of America has stopped painting Russia as a deceitful nation bent on misleading the world with lies while preparing for war. Though many Americans still hold to this appraisal, the official view is that a sort of truce in the cold war has been declared.

As a result, the people of Europe and Russia are not getting the barrage of hate and war propoganda they were getting a few months earlier. The credit for the Russian change of tune goes to President Eisenhower, who tried so hard to convince the Russians at Geneva that the United States had none but peaceful intentions.

Some observers believe this thawing will lead to a further lessening of tension in the cold war field. Less abuse of each other is sure to make closer relationship possible and the current trend toward settlement may be the vogue for several years to come, or perhaps a decade or two.

In the Communist timetable, a few years or even a decade is not much time to gain some advantage. The Reds need time to catch up with the United States in many ways. They are reducing the size of their armies by 640,000 men in an effort to improve the compaartive industrial and agricultural strength of Russia, as measured by U. S. attainments.

Moscow knows that the Communists Chinese also need time. If China can be built into a powerful nation in ten years the interval will have been worth the time.

Then there are those who believe Kremlin leaders realize now that atomic war would shatter the world. They believe this stark reality has forced the Reds to stop short of maneuvers which might lead to World War III. The United S[tates] armed to a considerable degr[ee as] a result of the Korean blund[er of] the Communists, now is better [pre]pared than she ever would have [been] or ever has been since World [War] II.

Time, then, from every ang[le] what the Communists must pla[y]. A war would not mean victory [for] anyone. It might mean defeat [for] Communism. If Russia and [China] can gain on the free world i[n a] peaceful interval which looks [pro]bable, then they may be in a [bet]ter position to exact concessions or win a war if one arises later [after] the United States has—in the [mean]time—reduced its defenses [to a] minor state, as this country [al]ways does when international [tension] eases.

There are indications that [China] is following the new Kremlin [line] more warily than the majority [of] Russian - dominated states, but China is going along neverth[eless]. She is still too dependent on [the] USSR to openly buck the Kre[mlin's] traditional role as leader and [pace]setter of the Communist world.

The Eisenhower Administ[ration] began to brake the boom rece[ntly] at Secretary of the Tr[easury] Humphrey's insistence—to in[sure] continuation of good times th[rough]out 1956. Another spiral in [prices] and costs was feared, and su[ch in]flationary cycles often bring them a recessionary period.

Had this recessionary peri[od set] in during the middle of next [year] or even a few months later, Democrats might have had the [issue]. Democrats might have had [a cam]paign which culminates in N[ovem]ber. G. O. P. leaders want to [avoid] a boom and bust and also w[ant to] spread out the prosperity w[ave] throughout all of 1956, and th[e] quick action recently to slow the developing boom, much of [which] was on credit.

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WASHINGTON NOTES

[NE]W RESERVE PROGRAM

[In si]gning an executive order, au[thoriz]ing direct enlistments into the [Army] and the Marine Corps Re[serve], as provided in the New Re[serve] Program Act of 1955, Presi[dent] Eisenhower acted promptly to [start the] special reserves program in [motion]. He declared, "No time [shoul]d be lost in moving toward the [goal] of stronger Reserves as rapidly [as the] new law permits. It is my [hope] that young Americans [will re]spond to this volunteer pro[gram] in such measure as to insure [suc]cess."

[IMP]ULSE BUYING

[Imp]ulse buying— an unplanned [purcha]se of items not urgently [need]ed — accounts for nearly [one-fi]fth of all purchases of cloth[ing, fu]rniture, appliances, automo[biles] and homes, according to a [study] of consumer buying habits [by th]e University of Illinois. The [study] revealed that three of five purchases are made because they cannot be postponed. Of these "necessary" expenditures, about one in three—usually for clothing or automobile accessories such as tires—has caught the purchaser by surprise.

POLIO VACCINE

President Eisenhower has signed the $30,000,000 measure to help the states buy polio vaccine. The Pubilc Heatlh Service has announced that $25,000,000 will be spent by the states for the purchase of vaccine, while $5,000,000 will pay for immunization programs or for the purchase of vaccine. All of the money is to be spent by next February 15.

ECONOMY AT PEAK

Prosperity in the United States has continued to boom above levels never reached before in its history. Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks urged, "Let us not do anything to spoil it," warning business men against overconfidence and speculation.

TRADE FAIRS

Washington, believing that competition with the Communist world is keenest in Asia, plans to use trade fairs to tell Asians how U. S. science and industry can aid them to a better way of life.

SPENDING SPREE

There are indications, noted by the Department of Commerce, that Americans are now engaged in the biggest spending spree in history, and have piled up record debts in the first six months of this year.

SOMETHING NEW FOR FREDDIE

St. Petersburg, Florida.- Freddie Bourque, 12, who had been in the hospital ten times with fractures of arms, ankles, wrists and fingers, recently checked into the hospital and the staff was all ready for another bone-setting job. But this time, Freddie fooled them — he had his appendix removed.

Rains May Have Injured Trout Fishing In Shenandoah Park

Luray, Aug. 31.- Casualties of August's heavy rains may have included fish.

Studies are scheduled this winter to determine whether the newly planted fish in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park managed to stay in their mountain streams through the month's heavy downspours.

The question to be answered: Are there enough fish to allow the return of angling to the list of outdoor attractions in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountain park?

Fishing was permitted in the National Park before 1954 and many fine catches of brook trout were reported.

Last year the drought and later rains from Hurricane Hazel reduced the supply of fish to such a point the Park Service, in the interests of conservation, closed the streams to anglers.

Guy D. Edwards, Park superintendent, said 25,000 brook trout were planted in the sparkling mountain streams earlier this year. But the heavy August rains have raised the question of how many fish, if any, were washed downstream?

The Fish and Wildlife Services of the U. S. Department of Interior will run tests through the winter and early spring to learn the answer, Edwards said.

The Park superintendent said he will not know until next spring whether the Park Service will be able to allow fishing during the 1956 season.

"I certainly hope we can," he declared.

Streams are numerous in the Shenandoah National Park and provide scenic attractions for hikers and horseback riders as well as sporting areas for anglers.

Many fine trails in the Park make the streams accessible from the resort areas along the Skyline Drive— the scenic mountain highroad that runs north and south through the Park.

The Park has facilities for overnight guests and vacationers at Big Meadows Lodge, a charming inn with modern hotel service, and at Skyland, a community of attractive and sizeable cottages. Both resorts have recreational facilities, dining rooms, and gift shops.

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The Fruit of Freedom

Labor Day, 1955

You can sense the symphony of American production throughout the land — the gentle hiss of a Bunsen burner in a lab . . . the rumble of a factory and the roar of a blast furnace . . . the snarl of a sawmill and the whine of a dynamo . . . the trap-drumming of riveting guns, and the never-ending click of steel wheels on steel rails.

You can see the American people — more millions than ever before, living better than any other peoples at any other time . . . better fed, better clothed, better educated, healthier . . . owning more homes and more luxuries . . . possessing more insurance, more pensions, more security . . . enjoying better working conditions and more leisure time.

All this is the fruit of freedom. It blooms only in the climate of free enterprise. It ripens only in the economic sunshine of competent, loyal workers and intelligent, foresighted management working together as a team. And it is harvested by more than 160 million men, women and children who live immeasurably better because of it.

When the rewards are so great, so tangible — *can any American fail in his devotion to the principles of free enterprise and the completeness of liberty in the land?*

"It is inherent in our system, under which freedom of competition makes monopolies well-nigh impossible, that greater productivity in selling things must go hand-in-hand with greater productivity in making things, and that as ownership shares the fruits of higher productivity among its customers and its employees, as well as itself, the purchasing power of all three groups is improved, and the standard of living of the total population rises in the process".—*W. L. McGrath, United States Employer Delegate to 1954 International Labor Conference.*

gn ministers on the Big Four f
ated issues.

U.S. Production Best in History

Washington (AP)—American production took a surprising leap to a record rate of 383 billion dollars annually in the April-June quarter, the President's Council of Economic Advisors announced today.

A whole sheaf of other new records — in personal income, consumer spending, employment, and industrial output— were disclosed in the council's monthly publication, "Economic Indicators."

These figures established the second quarter as the high-water mark of business activity in the country's history.

The new production rate was $7,700,000,000 above the previous high — attained in the first quarter.

Norfolk and Western Railway